

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

KIRK D. WILLIAMS,

Plaintiff,

v.  
MCDONALD'S CORPORATION,

Defendant.

No. 2:20-cv-1214 TLN DB PS

ORDER AND  
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Plaintiff Kirk Williams is proceeding in this action pro se. This matter was referred to the undersigned in accordance with Local Rule 302(c)(21) and 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). On July 6, 2021, defendant noticed a motion to dismiss plaintiff's second amended complaint for hearing before the undersigned. (ECF No. 24.) Pursuant to Local Rule 230(c) plaintiff was to file an opposition or a statement of non-opposition to defendant's motion "not less than fourteen (14) days preceding the noticed . . . hearing date." Plaintiff, however, failed to file a timely opposition or statement of non-opposition.

Accordingly, on August 2, 2021, the court issued an order to show cause, ordering plaintiff to show cause in writing within fourteen days as to why this action should not be dismissed for lack of prosecution, as well as ordering plaintiff to file a statement of opposition or non-opposition to defendant's motion on or before August 27, 2021. (ECF No. 26.) Plaintiff was warned that the failure to timely comply with that order could result in a recommendation that

1 this case be dismissed. (Id. at 2.) On August 23, 2021, plaintiff filed a notice of change of  
2 address. (ECF No. 27.) On August 27, 2021, plaintiff's copy of the August 2, 2021 order was  
3 returned as undeliverable. On August 30, 2021, a copy of the August 2, 2021 order was served  
4 on plaintiff at the new address provided. (ECF No. 28.) Nonetheless, the time provided plaintiff  
5 has expired and plaintiff has not responded to the August 2, 2012 order or to defendant's motion  
6 to dismiss.

7 ANALYSIS

8 The factors to be weighed in determining whether to dismiss a case for lack of prosecution  
9 are as follows: (1) the public interest in expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the court's need  
10 to manage its docket; (3) the risk of prejudice to the defendant; (4) the public policy favoring  
11 disposition on the merits; and (5) the availability of less drastic sanctions. Hernandez v. City of  
12 El Monte, 138 F.3d 393, 398 (9th Cir. 1998); Ferdik v. Bonzelet, 963 F.2d 1258, 1260 (9th Cir.  
13 1992); Carey v. King, 856 F.2d 1439, 1440 (9th Cir. 1988). Dismissal is a harsh penalty that  
14 should be imposed only in extreme circumstances. Hernandez, 138 F.3d at 398; Ferdik, 963 F.2d  
15 at 1260.

16 Failure of a party to comply with the any order of the court "may be grounds for  
17 imposition by the Court of any and all sanctions authorized by statute or Rule or within the  
18 inherent power of the Court." Local Rule 110. Any individual representing himself or herself  
19 without an attorney is nonetheless bound by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Local  
20 Rules, and all applicable law. Local Rule 183(a). A party's failure to comply with applicable  
21 rules and law may be grounds for dismissal or any other sanction appropriate under the Local  
22 Rules. Id.

23 Here, plaintiff has failed to respond to the August 2, 2021 order, and has failed to file a  
24 statement of opposition or non-opposition to defendant's motion to dismiss. Plaintiff was warned  
25 that the failure to file a written response to that order could result in a recommendation that this  
26 matter be dismissed. In this regard, plaintiff's lack of prosecution of this case renders the  
27 imposition of monetary sanctions futile. Moreover, the public interest in expeditious resolution of  
28 litigation, the court's need to manage its docket, and the risk of prejudice to the defendant all

1 support the imposition of the sanction of dismissal. Only the public policy favoring disposition  
2 on the merits counsels against dismissal. However, plaintiff's failure to prosecute the action in  
3 any way makes disposition on the merits an impossibility. The undersigned will therefore  
4 recommend that this action be dismissed due to plaintiff's failure to prosecute as well as  
5 plaintiff's failure to comply with the court's orders. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b).

6 Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

7 1. Defendant's July 6, 2021 motion to dismiss (ECF No. 24) is submitted without oral  
8 argument pursuant to Local Rule 230(g); and  
9 2. The September 10, 2021 hearing of defendant's motion is vacated.

10 Also, IT IS HEREBY RECOMMENDED that:

11 1. Plaintiff's second amended complaint (ECF No. 23) be dismissed without prejudice;  
12 and  
13 2. This action be closed.

14 These findings and recommendations are submitted to the United States District Judge  
15 assigned to the case, pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). Within fourteen days  
16 after being served with these findings and recommendations, any party may file written  
17 objections with the court and serve a copy on all parties. Such a document should be captioned  
18 "Objections to Magistrate Judge's Findings and Recommendations." Any reply to the objections  
19 shall be served and filed within fourteen days after service of the objections. The parties are  
20 advised that failure to file objections within the specified time may waive the right to appeal the  
21 District Court's order. Martinez v. Ylst, 951 F.2d 1153 (9th Cir. 1991).

22 DATED: September 7, 2021

/s/ DEBORAH BARNES

UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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